

## **King County Mobility Coalition**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
King County Housing Authority, Snoqualmie Conference Room  
700 Andover Park W, Tukwila, WA 98188

#### In attendance

*Members/Alternates:* Gaby Bell, Alaric Bien, Rebekah Binns, Ella Campbell, Gil Cerise, Dorene Cornwell, Francois Larrivee, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Ruben Rivera-Jackman, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Edith Savadove, Allison Scott, Irene Stewart, George Smith, David Waggoner, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart

*Collaborators:* Jeanne Acutanza, Cindy Dodge, Griff Lambert, Michell Mouton, Matthew Rohrbach, Yvonne Simpson

*Staff:* Jon Morrison Winters

#### Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Everyone introduced themselves, including the following new collaborators:

##### *New Introductions:*

- Cindy Dodge is with FUSION: Friends United to Shelter the Indigent, Oppressed, and Needy
- Griff Lambert is with Jewish Family Services
- Jeanne Acutanza and Michell Mouton are our guest presenters from WSDOT

##### *Announcements:*

- Alex O'Reilly announced that Michelle Zeidman has resigned from her position as Mobility Manager. Alex passed around a card for Michelle.
- Alex also announced that Jon Morrison Winters, the sub-regional mobility coordinator, will be providing interim staff support for the Coalition until the Mobility Manager position is filled.
- Gaby Bell announced the new collaboration between Harborview Medical Center and King County Housing Authority. "Project Go" will focus on pedestrian safety.
- Ref Lindmark announced the creation of the Low Income Fare Options Advisory Committee. The committee will be looking at best practices and exploring options for the implementation of a low-income bus fare. The committee will be providing recommendations to King County Metro. Draft recommendations are due in May and final recommendations in June. *See Handout #1*
- Ref also announced the availability of a new mobile ORCA card unit. The mobile unit is able to provide ORCA services at remote locations, including the issuing of RRFP cards for seniors and people with a disability. A mobile unit team will come to sites with 10-20 or more people who need ORCA services.

## Consent Calendar

*November 20, 2012 Meeting Minutes:* the Coalition approved the meeting minutes as drafted.

## Co-chair Election Results

Ref announced to the Coalition that Alex O'Reilly was unanimously re-elected to a two-year team as Coalition Co-chair. The Coalition congratulated Alex on her re-election and thanked her for her service.

## Briefing: I-90 Tolling Environmental Assessment Scoping

Alex O'Reilly introduced Jeanne Acutanza of WSDOT. Jeanne presented information on the upcoming Environmental Assessment period for the potential tolling of the I-90 bridge.

- Jeanne explained the NEPA process of environmental assessment.
- The tolling of I-90 is being explored as an option to cover the revenue shortfall for the replacement of the 520 bridge. Tolling was recommended by an expert review panel and legislative work group in 2006.
- The environmental analysis was to begin on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The timeframe of the analysis is one year.
- Scoping for the environmental assessment included a license plate survey, mail survey, 3 focus groups, a census survey of Mercer Island residents, and reading comments submitted via e-mail and website (over 2000 comments were submitted).
- Some questions asked included the legality of tolling an interstate or of tolling one facility to pay for another (tolling the I-90 bridge would be a legal application of FHWA's value pricing pilot program).
- Future tolls planned or being studied include I-405 "HOT" lanes, tolling of SR-99 tunnel, and possible tolls on I-5 express lanes.
- Ref Lindmark asked about mitigation of the effects of tolling on low-income and special needs populations.
- Jeanne responded that increasing transit is one way to mitigate these effects. Other mitigations will be identified. The legislature may give exemptions (on 520, vanpools, scheduled buses, first responders, and working tow-truck drivers are exempt).
- The Washington State Transportation Commission will set toll rates and exemptions.
- Dorene Cornwell asked about using toll revenues to fund transit.
- Jeanne responded that the money from I-90 tolls will go to cover 520 construction and not to any other projects.
- Alex O'Reilly asked if additional transit has provided mitigation for low-income and special-needs population.
- Jeanne and Michelle noted that ridership has increased on 520 routes.
- Other members commented on the difficulty that tolls create for students, seniors, and the working poor, as well as bus/shuttle operators who may not be able to pass on additional costs.
- Alaric Bien noted that special burden placed on Eastside residents who face high housing costs and an increased transportation cost from tolls.
- Francois Larrivee asked about the federal threshold established by Executive Order 12898 (related to Environmental Justice)

### Briefing: PSRC Coordinated Special Needs Transportation Plan Updates

Ref Lindmark introduced Gil Cerise and Matthew Rohrbach of PSRC. Gil and Matthew presented on updates to the Regional Coordinated Special Needs Transportation Plan.

- Gil gave a brief background on the plan and the current updates. The current update is minor. Goals and Strategies are being updated. PSRC's Special Needs Transportation Committee is meeting monthly to work on plan updates.
- Ref Lindmark commented that an up-to-date list of services will be an important part of the updates.
- Gil noted that PSRC will need any updated information by September to be included in this round of updates.
- Matthew Rohrbach explained that, in addition to the goals and strategies, demographics and major destinations will also be updated. The list of destinations is currently not relevant to many people. Matthew asked "what do we see as major, regional destinations?"
- Ref suggested that putting all important destinations on the map may create too much clutter, but they could be listed.
- Dorene Cornwell asked whether the data is dynamic at all. For example, whether the maps draw from mobile phone data, etc.
- Matt explained that the maps are currently not dynamic, but work is being done to get the best available data.
- Francois suggested looking at origins and destinations at the sub-regional or "micro-" level.
- Matt noted the current sub-regional classification is by "smart corridor."
- Alex O'Reilly suggested that the sub-regional mobility coalitions could look at the plan updates and corridor updates to bring out nuances in the data.
- Ref commented that careful planning of "smart corridors" is essential to consider the impact of two-seat rides as transit service cuts are implemented.
- Other Coalition members asked clarifying questions about issues of importance for LEP populations, people with disabilities, and other groups.

### South King County Mobility Coalition (SKCMC) Update (Jon Morrison Winters)

Jon provided updates on the work of the South King County Mobility Coalition. The SKCMC has been focused on building capacity and growing membership on the Coalition. In the near future, we will be shifting our focus by considering a new structure with committees. This change came out of the recognition of the diversity of membership on the SKCMC.

### North King County Mobility Coalition (NKCMC) Update (George Smith)

George updated the Coalition on the work of the North King County Mobility Coalition. At recent meetings, the NKCMC has been focused on contributing to on-going transportation planning efforts, including a 145<sup>th</sup> Street/SR523 corridor plan, and planning around future light-rail stations. Growing Transit Communities equity grants were recently awarded – the NKCMC is looking to engage with grantees.

#### Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) Update (Alex O'Reilly)

Alex spoke about the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative's engagement with Snoqualmie Valley Transportation. There is a lot more that we can do by working together and expanding our outreach to some of the more rural areas of East King County. We have been monitoring Metro's implementation of Alternative Service Delivery in the Snoqualmie Valley, and asking about how we can contribute to the establishment of mobility centers. The EERC has also continued to engage on the issue of the Transit Incentive Program by encouraging ticket donations and visiting licensing offices.

#### Livable Communities Committee Update (Gaby Bell)

Gaby shared on the work of the Livable Communities Committee and the "Rough Terrain" sub-committee. This sub-committee is exploring options to increase the presence of benches in key areas, such as between transit stops. They have been researching transit agency bench-placement policies, as well as possibilities for placing benches on private property. They may be conducting a bench audit in the Wallingford neighborhood.

#### Immigrant & Refugee Update (Ref Lindmark)

Ref updated the Coalition on the Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Project (a project of the Outreach Committee). King County Metro will be sponsoring updates to the Immigrant and Refugee Elder's project videos. The updates will make the video content available in additional languages and will add a segment on use of the ORCA card, the proof of payment system, and fare inspections.

#### Staff Update (Jon Morrison Winters)

Jon updated the Coalition on the Veterans One-Stop Access Project. The project is proceeding, despite some delays. Currently, the RFP for transportation kiosks has been issued and the vendor-selection process is on-going. A Veteran's Transportation Needs Assessment is also being conducted by two UW Evans School of Public Affairs Graduate Students.

Jon also gave a quick briefing on the Overlake Village Station Area Equity Project. This project is a collaboration between Hopelink and Futurewise and was funded through a Growing Transit Communities Equity grant. The project has involved direct outreach and organizational outreach to residents and community groups in the Overlake area of Redmond. Most recently, a workshop and walking tour was held on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Other Comments

David Waggoner of the King County Veterans Advisory Board, the Veteran's representative on the Coalition, noted that the King County Mobility Coalition meets the same time as the Veteran's Advisory Board.

David spoke about his efforts to teach veterans and seniors how to use the bus by partnering with the Issaquah Senior Center to conduct transit excursions.

Coalition members encouraged David to coordinate his efforts with others who are doing similar work. The Coalition also agreed to consider alternative dates and times to avoid the conflict with the Veteran's Advisory Board. Alternative meeting times will be considered for the second half of 2013.

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 21, 2013** from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the **Shoreline City Hall**, 17500 Midvale Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133 in the Council Chambers (located on the First floor).

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:  
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>